

CLVT-186  
Edward Egans' House  
Island Creek Vicinity  
Private

1890's

This two story frame house is the replacement of a small log dwelling that was built by the Egans family and their community. Egans was a black veteran of the Union Army, purchased this land after his discharge, and after acquiring more capital as a farmer, built this larger, more comfortable and aesthetic frame house.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

THE EDWARD EGANS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North side of Williams Rd., 1 mile west of Jct. of  
Williams Rd. and Broomes Island Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Island Creek

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Clavert

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. G. Frances Chase Bryson

Telephone #: Not Available

STREET &amp; NUMBER

82 Floyd St.

CITY, TOWN

Dorchester

☐ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code  
Mass**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clavert County Courthouse

Liber #: JLB 39

Folio #: 335

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Fredrick

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This once handsome two story frame house stands at the end of a long drive that leads <sup>Norh</sup> from Williams Rd.

According to Miss Blanche Wilson, a nearby resident in Ben's Creek and who knows the history of this early community of freedmen, this house began as a one story log dwelling similar to the one built by her grandparents (the Harrods) soon after freedom. In later years, the frame sections were added to the log block, as at the Harrod house (CLVT- ). In this case, the original log house has been demolished, and only the later balloon frame sections remain. The principal facade is the two bay block on the southeastern length, which opens into the sitting room. Behind it has been attached a two story block, the downstairs room of which serves as the kitchen. Perpendicular to the principal facade is the original two room block. The front room (east) is a small room containing the stairway of one flight and a quarter round landing with rectangular bannisters, handrail, and a newel post. The back room now serves as the dining room and was probably built originally for that purpose, since its rear wall was probably attached to the original log dwelling, which most likely became the kitchen, as was the case in other enlarged houses.

The framing members are entirely circular saw cut, even the corner posts, which were often hewn in balloon frame houses in Southern Maryland. The members are fastened by wire nails toed into place throughout the frame, in contrast to the balloon frame addition of the Harrod House in the 1880's in which the posts and sills were morticed, tenoned, and pegged together in the traditional way. The windows in each block had 2x2 lights in double hung sashes. The eaves are boxed with plain boards. The roof is covered with corrugated tin.

The downstairs sitting room and the room above were heated by stoves whose small brick stacks are original. The use of stoves originally in this section, the plain but still decorative mantel, the lathed and plastered walls, and commercially produced trims around the door and window openings indicate this block was built for a family of economic means.

Some

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	1890's	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Black Social and Cultural History
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

According to Miss Blanche Wilson and the present tenant of the house, Mrs. Edith Johnson, this house was built by Edward Egans. Like the James Harrod (CLVT-1891) and Albert Gantt (CLVT- ), Egans was a veteran of the Union Army. Upon his return, <sup>he</sup> purchased this land and built a log house with the aid of his community. Since <sup>Egans'</sup> death, the house has become heir property and has not been maintained properly, with the result that it no longer stands as proudly atop the hill as it once did. According to Mrs. Johnson, the house contained the commemorative discharge papers from the Union Army, similar to one of Albert Gantt, that related Egans' service in the Union Army. There were <sup>other</sup> documents and artifacts related to Egans and his family, perhaps some photographs, but these were collected by his descendants and are now with them in Massachusetts, according to Mrs. Johnson.

The importance of this house is that it illustrates the upward mobility of some black families after the Civil War in Calvert County, <sup>especially</sup> those black families who were able to buy land. This house was a fine example of the type built by black landowners in the late 19th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md, Commission on Afro-American History &amp; Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438